

Presentation to the Iowa Smart Planning Taskforce

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**The role of “smart planning”
in Iowa depends on which
Iowa we are discussing.**



Typology of geographic areas

- **Core cities.**
 - **Suburban cities.**
 - **Rural areas on the fringe of metros.**
 - **Natural amenity-rich rural areas.**
 - **“Deep” rural areas: Working lands and related service center cities.**
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- **All are interconnected, forming regions.**



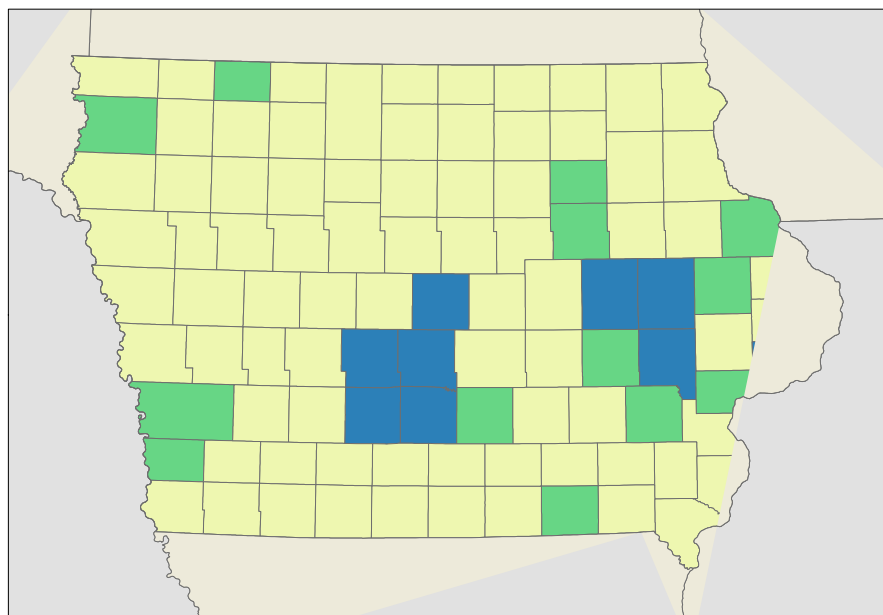
Importance of smart planning

- **Core cities**
 - Business, commercial redevelopment
 - Bring back residents
- **Suburban cities**
 - Cost of infrastructure & services
 - Traffic congestion

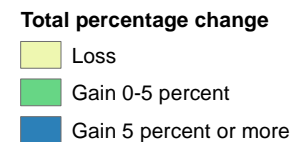


Importance of smart planning

- **Rural areas on the fringe of metros**
 - Desires for country living, with city services.
- **Amenity-rich rural areas**
 - Seasonal populations, seasonal demands.
- **“Deep” rural areas**
 - Managing local services with scarce public \$\$.
 - Improving economic opportunities.

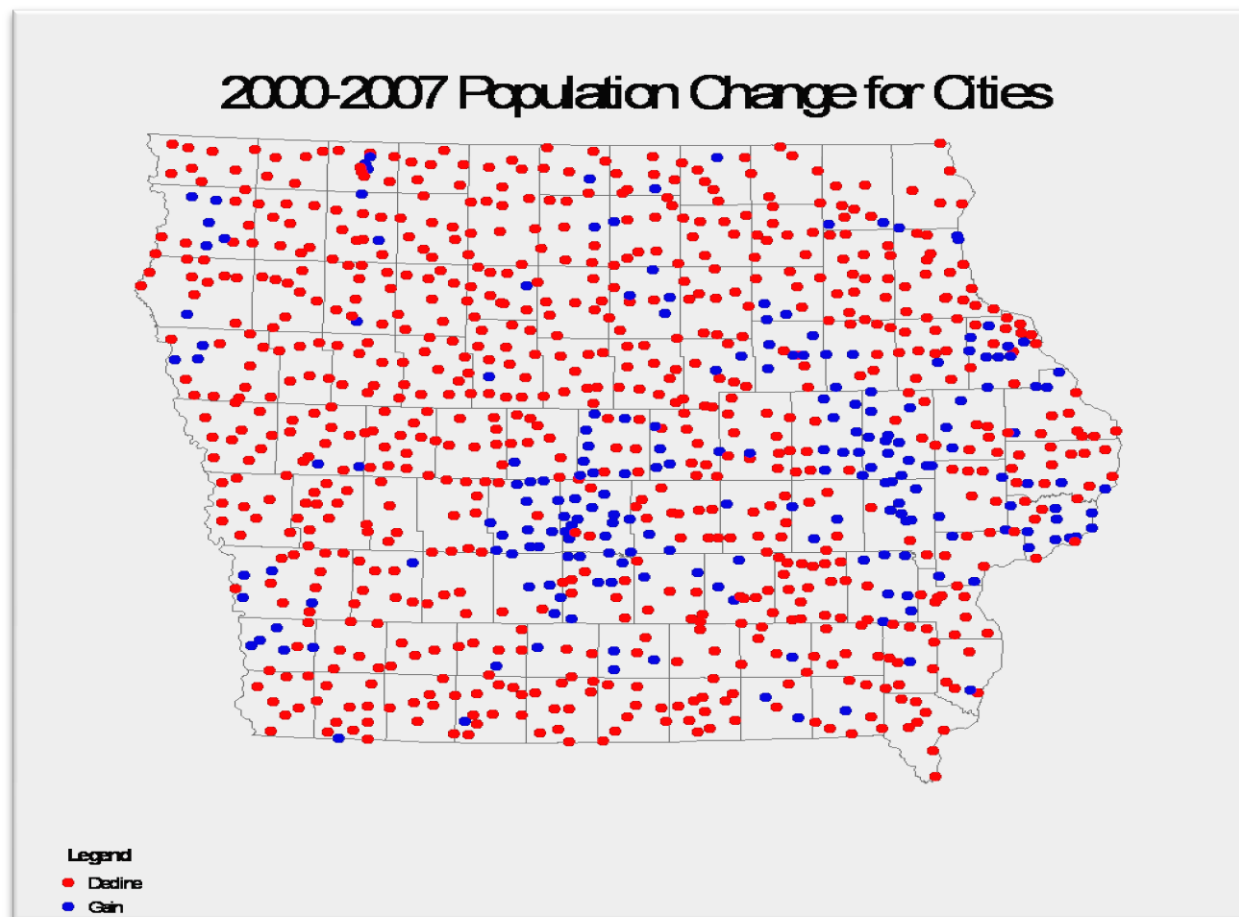
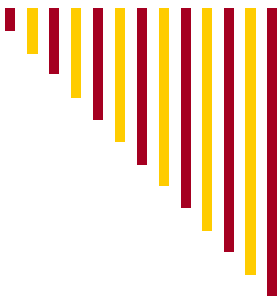


**Percentage Change in Total Population,
2000-2009**



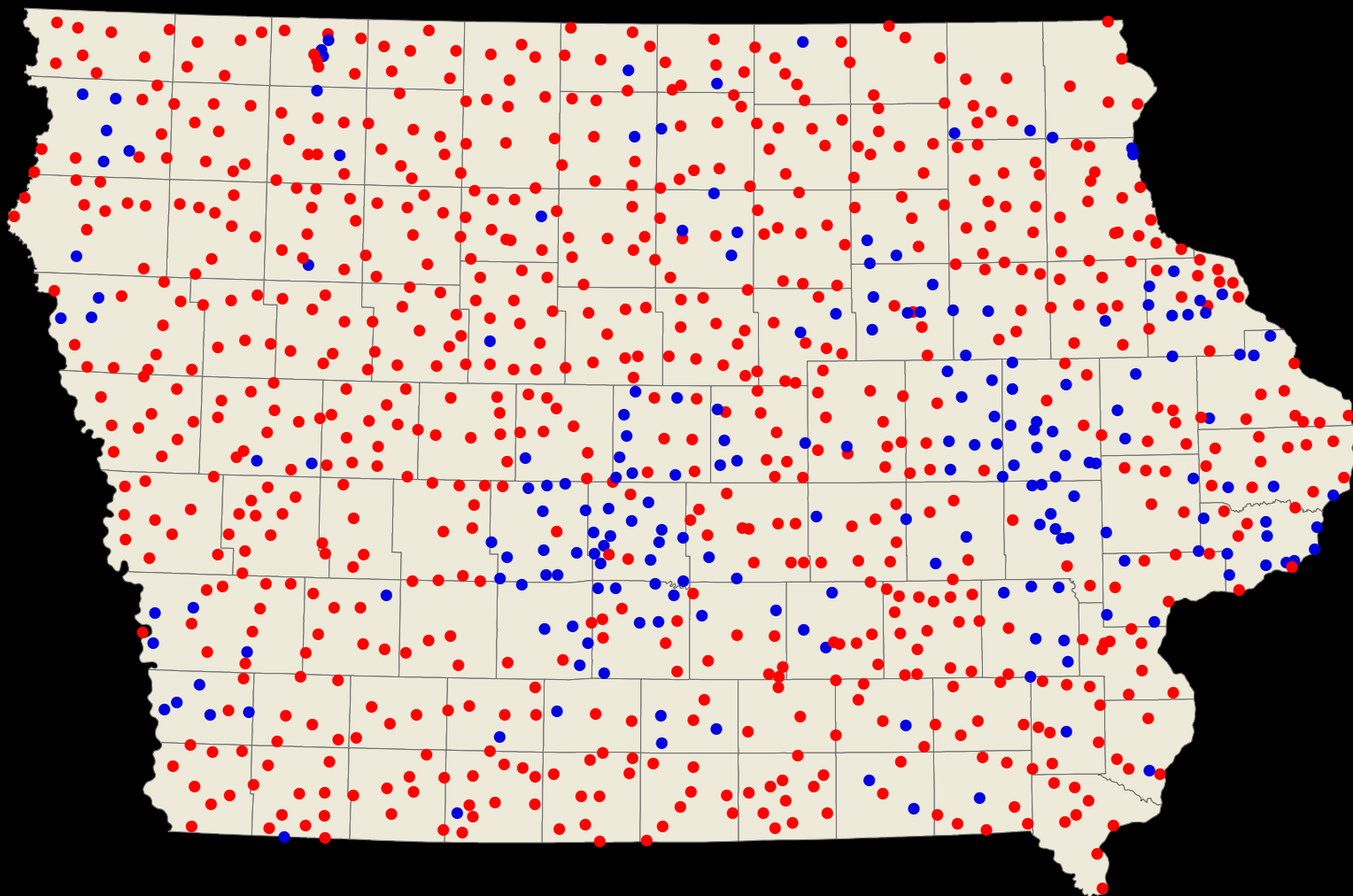
Source: Lies Eathington, ISU ReCAP

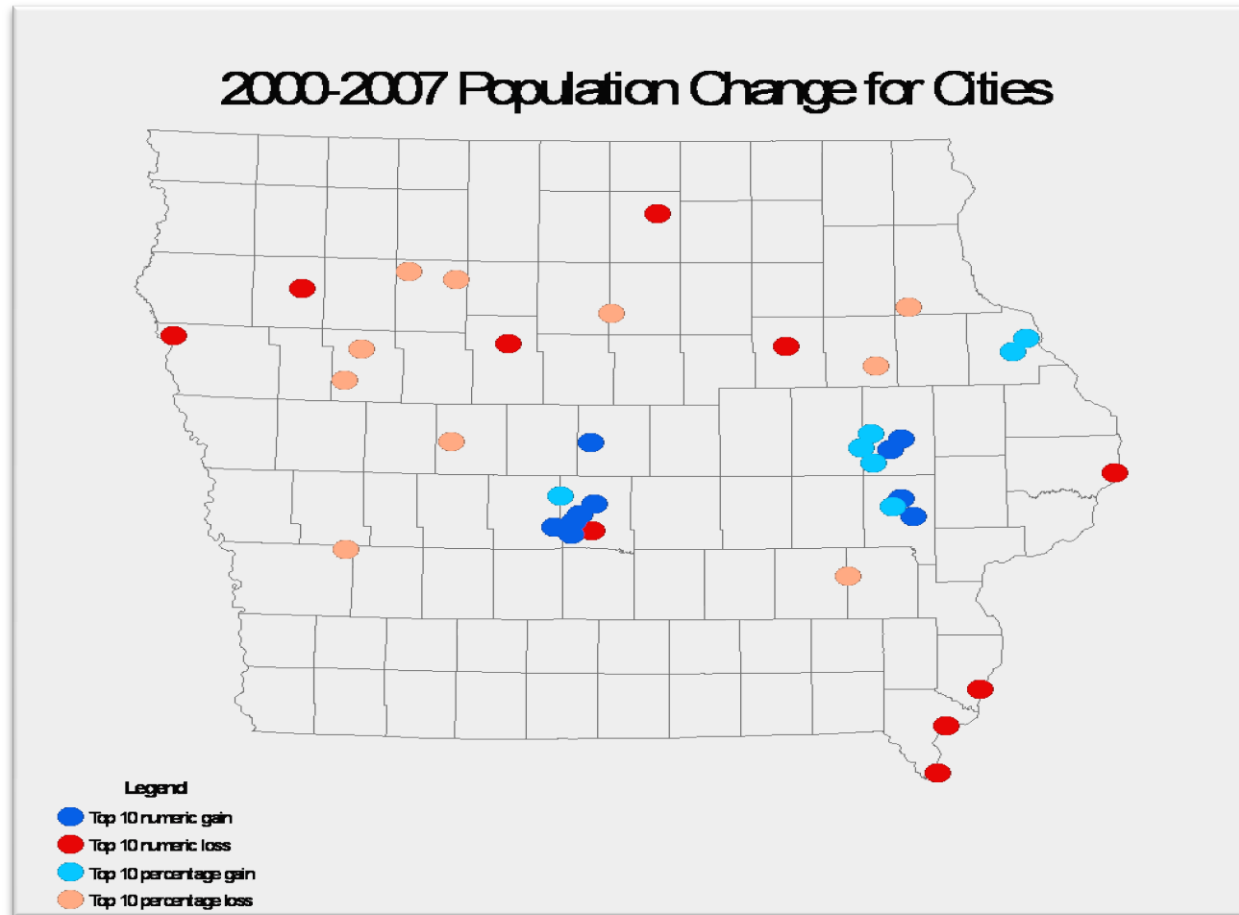
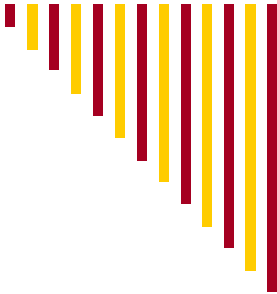
- **77 of 99 counties experienced population loss, 2000 – 2009**
- **84 counties experienced net out-migration**
- **Only 9 grew by 5 percent or more**



Source: Liesl Eathington, ISU ReCAP

- 727 of 947 cities experienced population loss, 2000 – 2007.
- 10 fastest growing cities experienced gains of ≥ 53 percent.
- 10 cities with largest declines experienced losses ≥ 12 percent.





Source: Liesl Eathington, ISU ReCAP

- Cities in metro counties grew by 95,100
...when all Iowa cities grew by only 62,341
...and several core and industrial cities lost population



Snapshot of current comprehensive planning in Iowa.



Planning in Iowa Counties with Plans

Survey Year/ Resp. rate	Number	% of all Iowa counties
1976 (100%)	51	51%
1999 (100%)	79	79%
2009 (estimate*)	84*	84%



Planning in Iowa

Cities with Comprehensive Plans

Survey Year/ Resp. rate	Number	% of all Iowa cities
1976 (91%)	284	30%
1999 (98%)	314	33%
2009 (estimate*)	373*	39%



Planning in Iowa 1999 survey

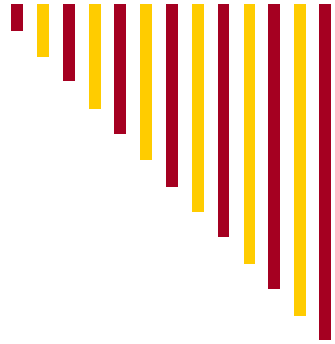
- **239 cities had zoning, but no plan.**
- **40 percent of cities w/ plans had revised zoning w/o considering plan.**
- **Cities in metro areas more likely to plan; still, over 40 percent of cities in metropolitan areas had no plan.**

City Population Range	Percentage with Plans (1999)
0 to 499	10%
500 to 1,499	45%
1,500 to 2,499	75%
2,500 to 4,999	86%
5,000 to 9,999	95%
10,000 and over	100%



Ten Smart Planning principles

1. Collaboration.
 2. Efficiency, transparency, and consistency.
 3. Clean, renewable, and efficient energy.
 4. Occupational diversity.
 5. Revitalization.
 6. Housing diversity.
 7. Community character.
 8. Natural resources and ag. protection.
 9. Sustainable design.
 10. Transportation diversity.
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Incentives for local and regional planning

Lessons from other states



Incentives

- Incentives for *creating* a plan.
- Incentives for *having* a plan.



Wisconsin planning grants

Population	Base Funding Level (BFL)
1 to 2,000	\$20,000
2,001 to 5,000	\$30,000
5,001 to 10,000	\$40,000
10,001 to 25,000	\$60,000
25,001 to 50,000	\$100,000
50,001 to 100,000	\$150,000
100,001 to 200,000	\$200,000
Over 200,000	\$350,000

- State provides competitive grants of up to 50% of BFL for developing a comprehensive plan.
- Draft of plan submitted for scoring to determine eligibility.



State aiding planning process

- **Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) for records modernization.**
- **Geospatial data clearinghouse (WiscLINC).**
- **Applied Population Lab.**
- **Guidebooks for plan adoption, and for preparing the various comprehensive plan elements.**



Incentives to have a plan: Infrastructure \$\$

- **Maryland Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Act (1997).**
 - Local governments establish Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) through local comprehensive plans.
 - State establishes criteria for designating PFAs.
 - State funds for roads, sewer & water, state and local facilities directed to PFAs.



Incentives to have a plan: Taxing authority/other funding

- **Washington State Growth Management Act (1991)**
 - **Carrots:**
 - Ability to collect impact fees.
 - Excise taxes may be levied and used for capital (infrastructure) improvements if the improvements are specified in plan.
 - **Sticks:**
 - Risk losing fuel taxes, sales taxes, access to loans and grants for failure to plan.



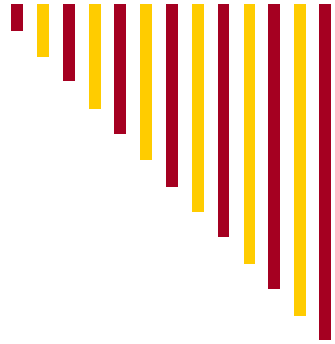
Incentives to have a plan: Annexation

- **Tennessee Growth Policy Law (1998)**
 - Cities and counties must prepare joint plans for urban growth. Plans must specify:
 1. Urban growth areas for cities.
 2. Planned growth areas within the county.
 3. Rural preservation areas.
 - Annexation is streamlined for land in (1), but difficult in (2) and virtually impossible in (3).



Lessons

- **Must consider incentives for planning in the context of what we are trying to accomplish.**
 - Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning, utilizing smart planning principles.
 - Develop model for regional comprehensive planning – recommend partnerships.
- **Suggest regional cooperation, state-local collaboration, defined set of objectives for future growth and development.**



Discussion

Iowa State University
University Extension
